

# BookletChart™

## Delaware Bay

NOAA Chart 12304

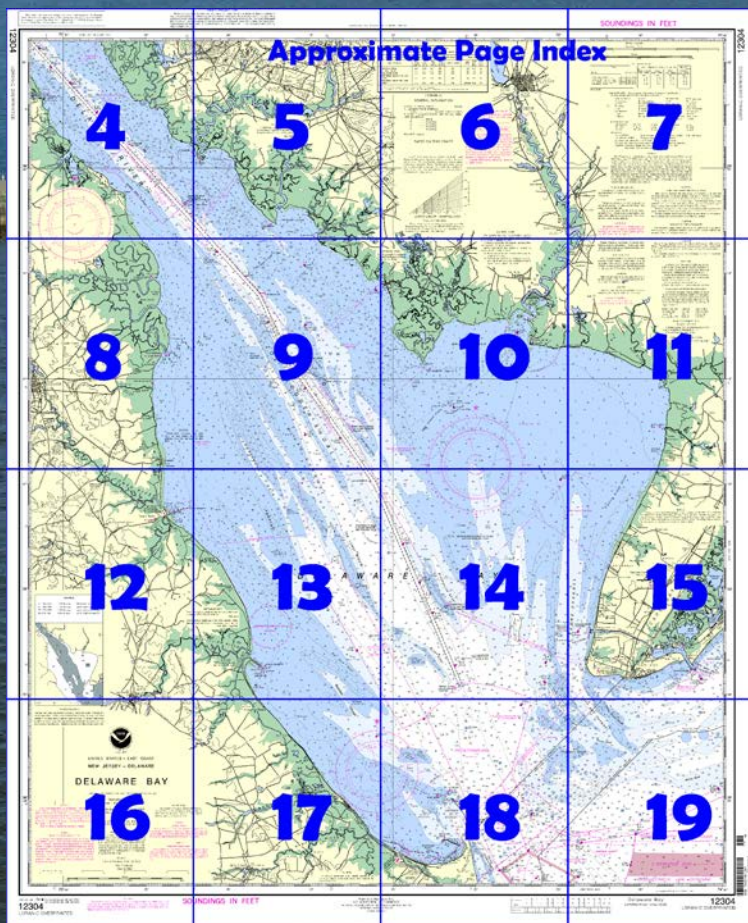


*A reduced-scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters*

*When possible, use the full-size NOAA chart for navigation.*



- Complete, reduced-scale nautical chart
- Print at home for free
- Convenient size
- Up-to-date with Notices to Mariners
- Compiled by NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, the nation's chartmaker



**Published by the**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**National Ocean Service**  
**Office of Coast Survey**  
[www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov](http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov)  
**888-990-NOAA**

### What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America's commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

### What is a BookletChart™?

This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at <http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov>.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

### Notice to Mariners Correction Status

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.

For latest Coast Pilot excerpt visit the Office of Coast Survey website at <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=12304>



#### (Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot)

**Delaware Bay** and Delaware River form the boundary between the State of New Jersey on the east and the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania on the west. The bay is an expansion of the lower part of Delaware River; the arbitrary dividing line, 42 miles above the Delaware Capes, extends from Liston Point, Del., to Hope Creek, N.J. Deep-draft vessels use the Atlantic entrance, which is about 10 miles wide between Cape

May on the northeast and Cape Henlopen on the southwest.

**Mileages** shown in this chapter, such as Mile 0.9E and Mile 12W, are the nautical miles above the **Delaware Capes** (or "the Capes"), referring to a line from Cape May Light to the tip of Cape Henlopen. The letters N, S, E,

or W, following the numbers, denote by compass points the side of the river where each feature is located.

**Cape May** is the extensive peninsula on the northeast side of the entrance to Delaware Bay. **Cape May Light** (38°55'59"N., 74°57'37"W.), 165 feet above the water, is shown from a white tower with a red cupola and two white dwellings nearby on Cape May Point. The shoals off Cape May are mixed clay and sand and have the consistency of hardpan; the ridges run in approximately the same directions as the currents. **Cape May Channel**, 1 mile southwest of the cape, is an unmarked passage between shoals, with depths from 2 to 4 feet on either side. The channel is seldom used, and then only by fishing vessels and pleasure craft; local knowledge is required for safe passage. **Lower River and Bay.**—1. The maximum fresh water draft for river transit from sea to Delair, New Jersey is 40 feet.

2. All vessels arriving with a fresh water draft in excess of 37 feet are to transit during flood current only.
3. All vessels over Panamax size beam (106 ft) having a fresh water draft in excess of 35'–06" shall only transit during flood current.
4. Vessels outbound from Paulsboro, NJ and above, having a fresh water draft of 37 feet and up to 40 feet should arrange to sail 2 hours after low water. Due to the extended time of transit for these particular deep draft vessels, two (2) river pilots will be arranged for transit to sea.
5. The maximum salt-water draft for entrance into Delaware Bay and Big Stone Beach anchorage is 55 feet, as per federal regulation. Qualified offshore advisors with portable DGPS units are available upon request from the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware.
6. Safe Under-Keel Clearance (UKC) should be assured for all transits, taking into consideration the vessel's squat and variations of actual tidal levels due to high winds, barometric pressure, and other atmospheric conditions. Actual tidal heights for many points in the Delaware Bay and River can be determined on the NOAA PORTS web site at <http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/dbports/dbports.html>, or by calling 1-866-307-6787 (1-866-30-PORTS).
7. Actual tidal levels and currents will vary from predicted heights due to high winds, barometric pressure, and other atmospheric conditions. Actual tidal heights, currents, bridge air gaps, and other data can be determined for many points in the Delaware Bay and River on the NOAA PORTS web site at <http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/dbports/dbports.html>, or by calling 1-866-307-6787 (1-866-30-PORTS).
8. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers periodically surveys the bottom conditions of the Delaware Bay and River main channel and anchorages, publishing the results of these surveys at <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/channel/list.htm>.

**Vessel Reporting.**—It is recommended that vessels report their position and status to the Maritime Exchange over VHF-FM channel 14 in the following situations:

1. When anchoring.
2. When getting underway.
3. When passing through Marcus Hook.
4. When entering or exiting the C&D canal.
5. When making fast to the dock.
6. Tugs operating without a barge are exempt from this recommendation. Tugs with barges are requested to report to the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange when anchoring and leaving all anchorages. It is important to stand by on VHF-FM channels 14 and 16 at all times. And AIS should always be on if the vessel is equipped with it.

### U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center 24 hour Regional Contact for Emergencies

RCC Norfolk	Commander	
	5th CG District	(575) 398-6231
	Norfolk, VA	



# Navigation Managers Area of Responsibility



**NOAA's navigation managers** serve as ambassadors to the maritime community.

They help identify navigational challenges facing professional and recreational mariners, and provide NOAA resources and information for safe navigation. For additional information, please visit [nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/service/navmanagers](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/service/navmanagers)

To make suggestions or ask questions online, go to [nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/inquiry](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/inquiry).

To report a chart discrepancy, please use [ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx](http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx).

## Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward

on navigable waters except Western Rivers



For more information on aids to navigation, including those on Western Rivers, please consult the latest USCG Light List for your area.

These volumes are available online at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>

# SOUNDINGS IN FEET

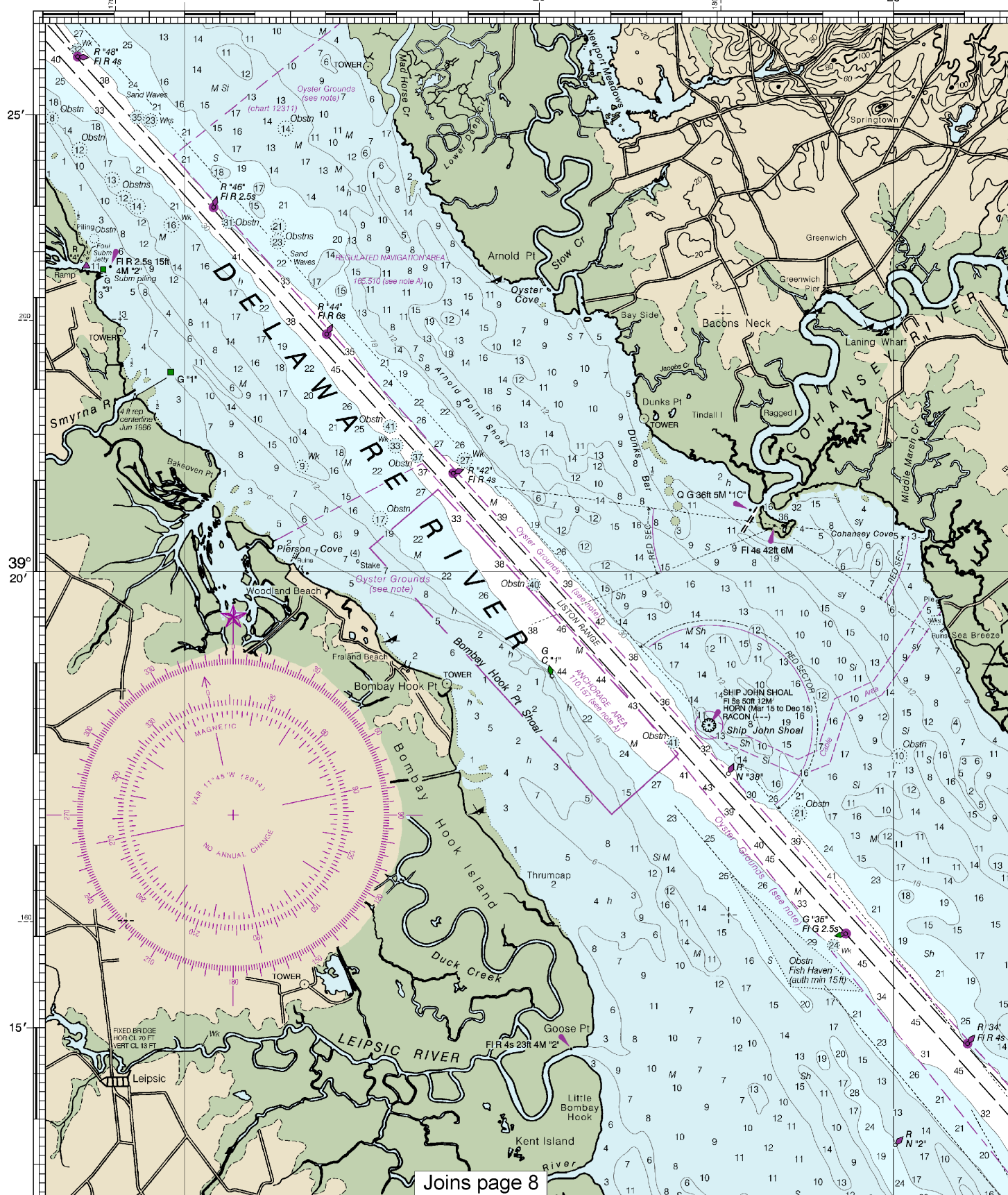
12304

75°30'

CONTINUED ON CHART 12311

25'

20'

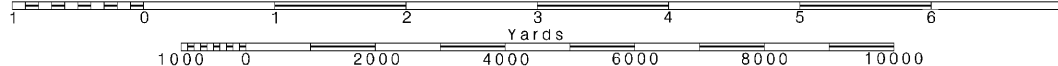


Joins page 8

Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:80,000  
Nautical Miles

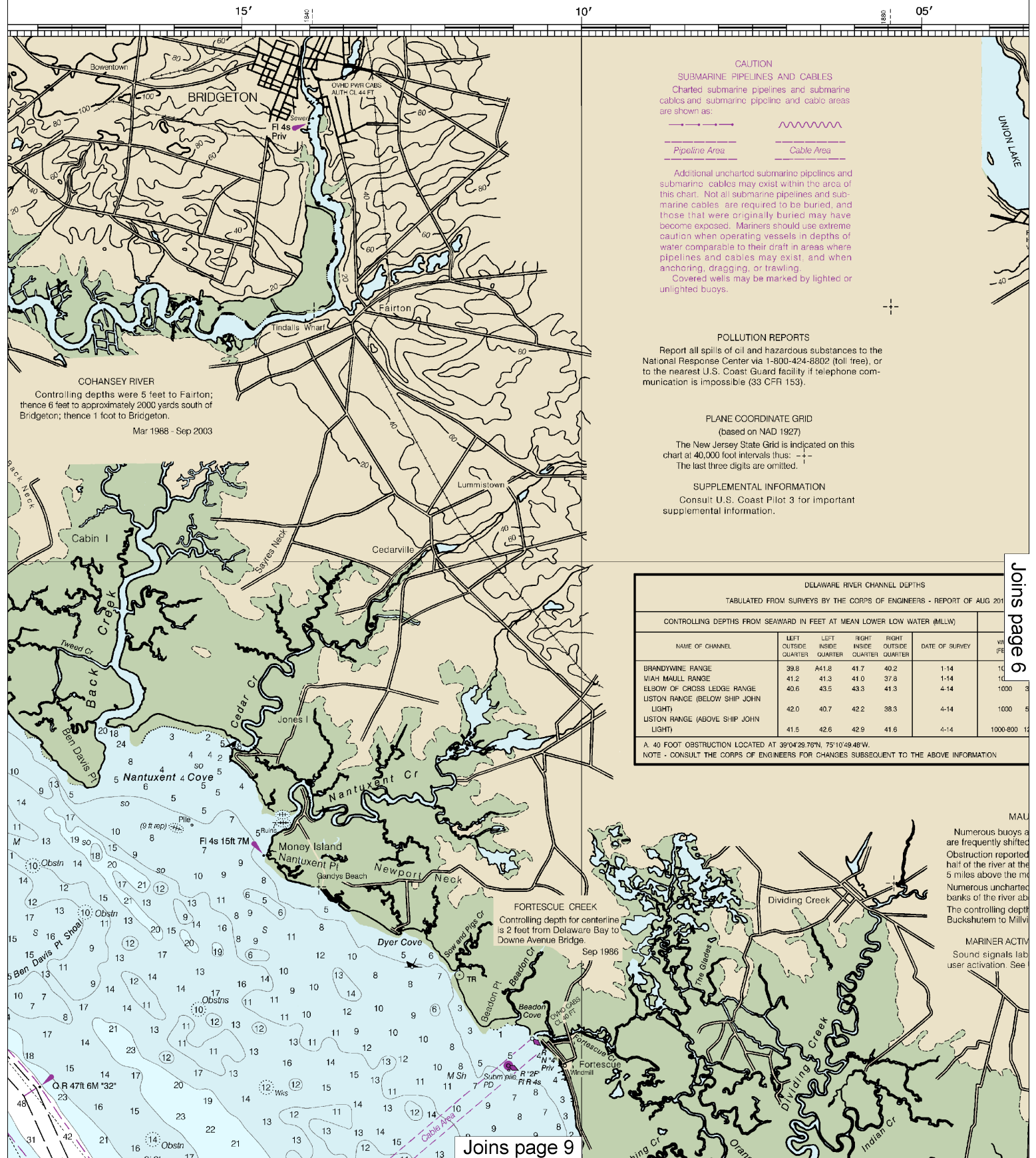
See Note on page 5.



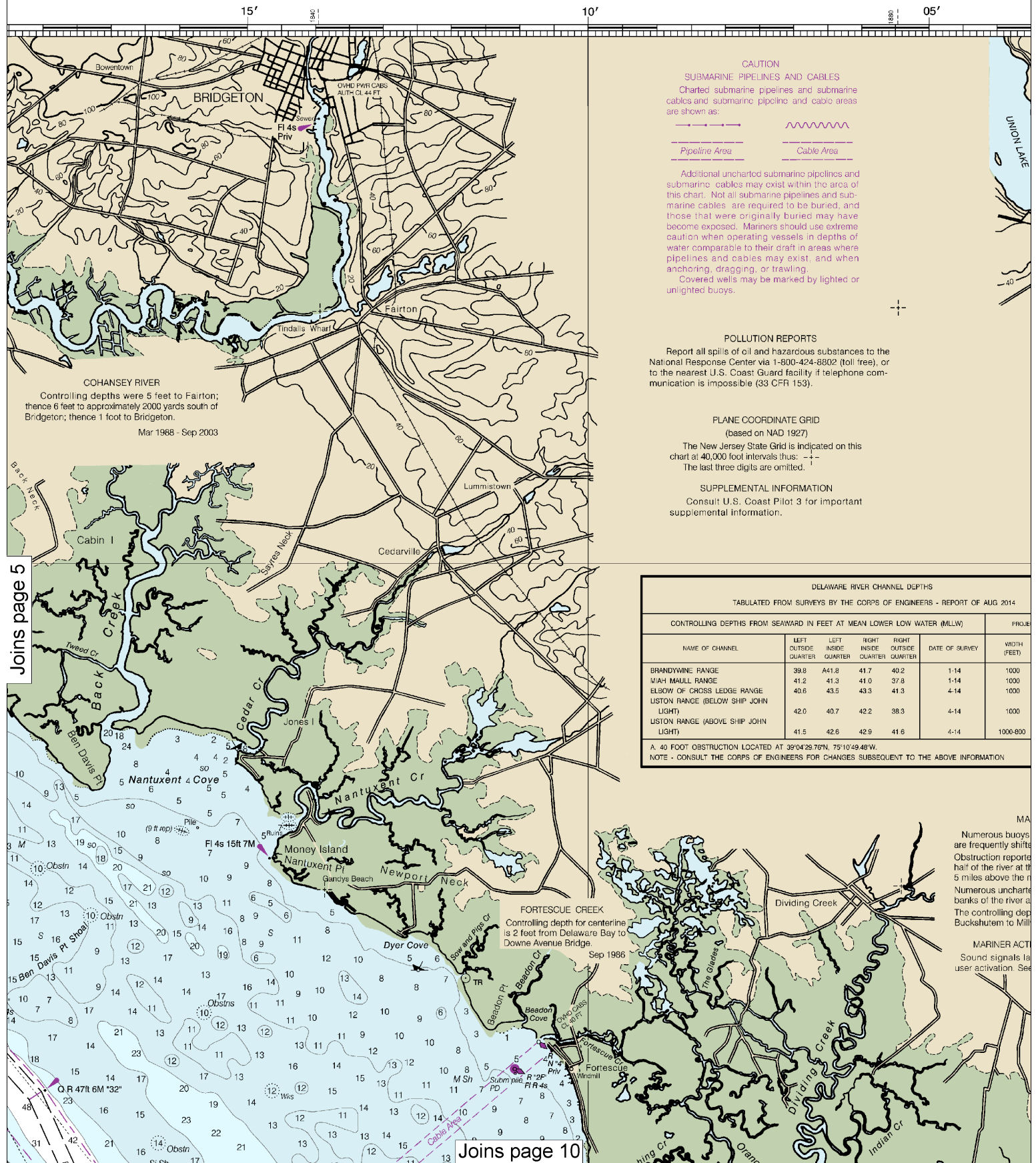
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

4





This BookletChart was reduced to 75% of the original chart scale.  
The new scale is 1:106666. Barscales have also been reduced and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart.



Joins page 5

Joins page 10

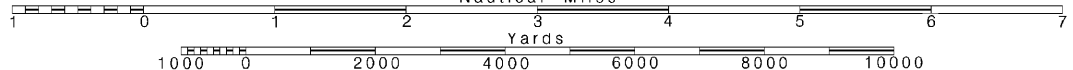
6

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

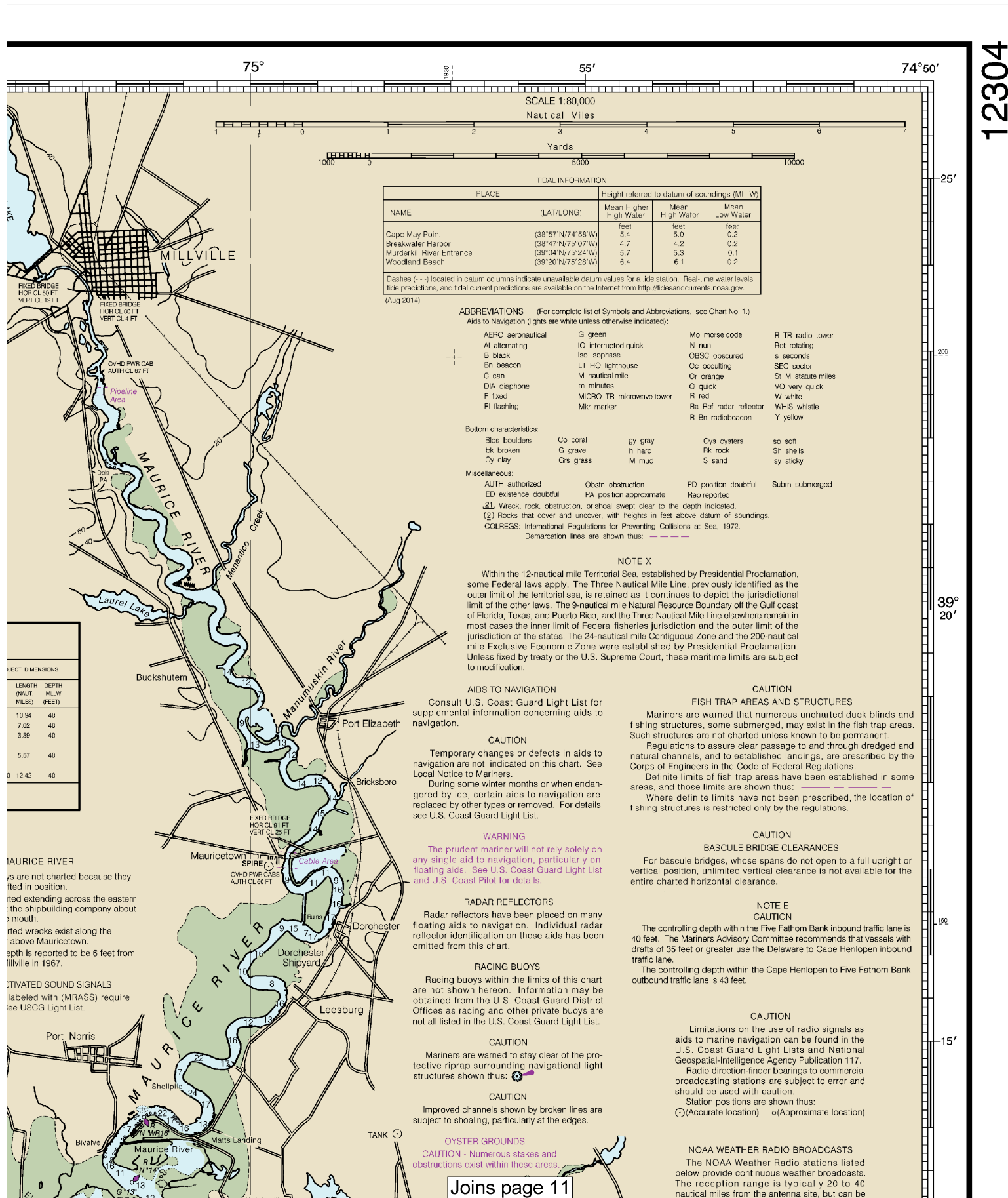
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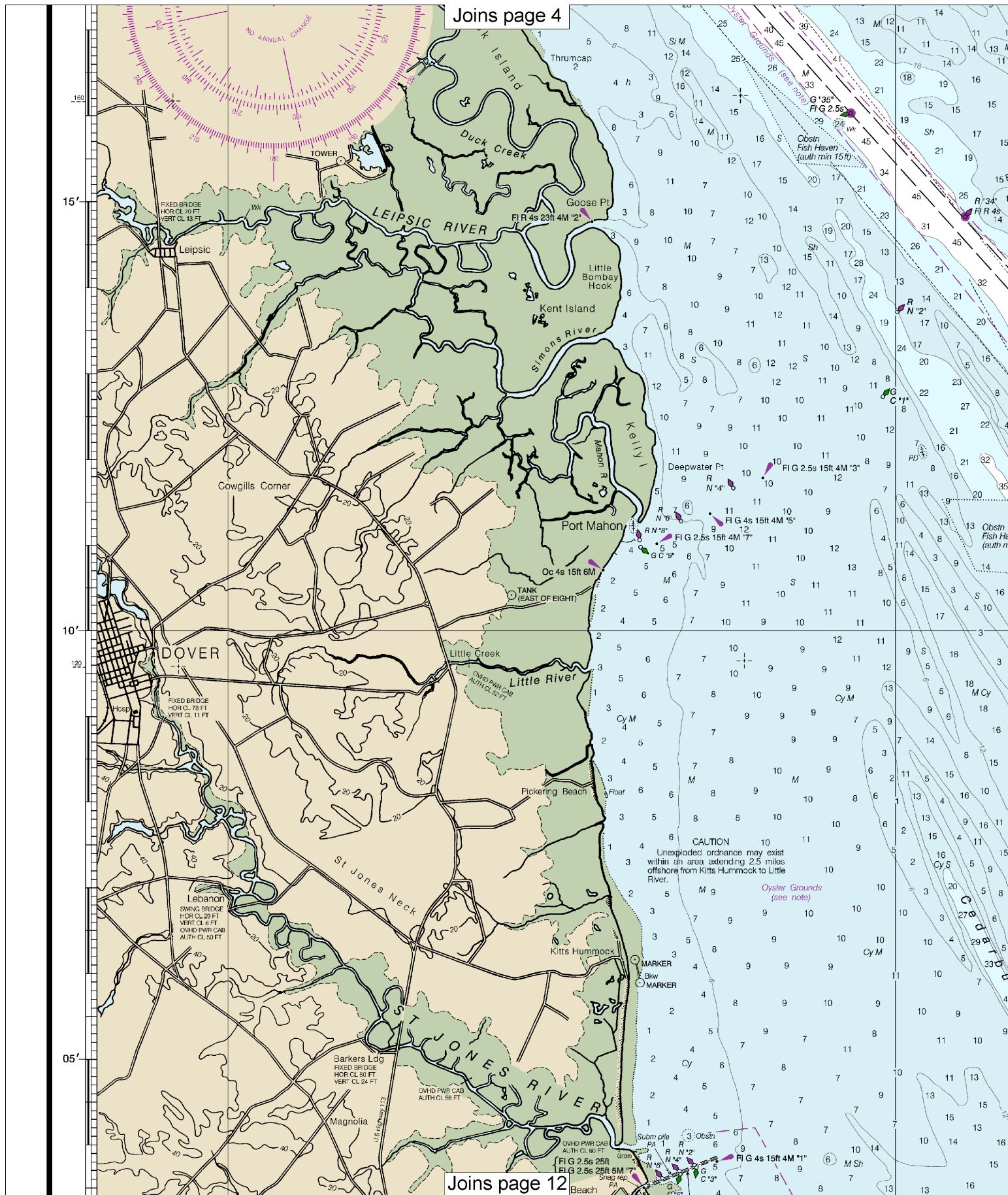
SCALE 1:80,000  
 Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.









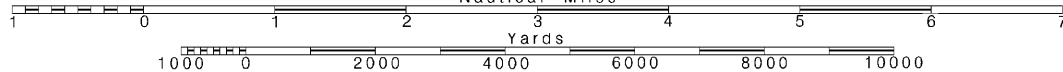
8

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

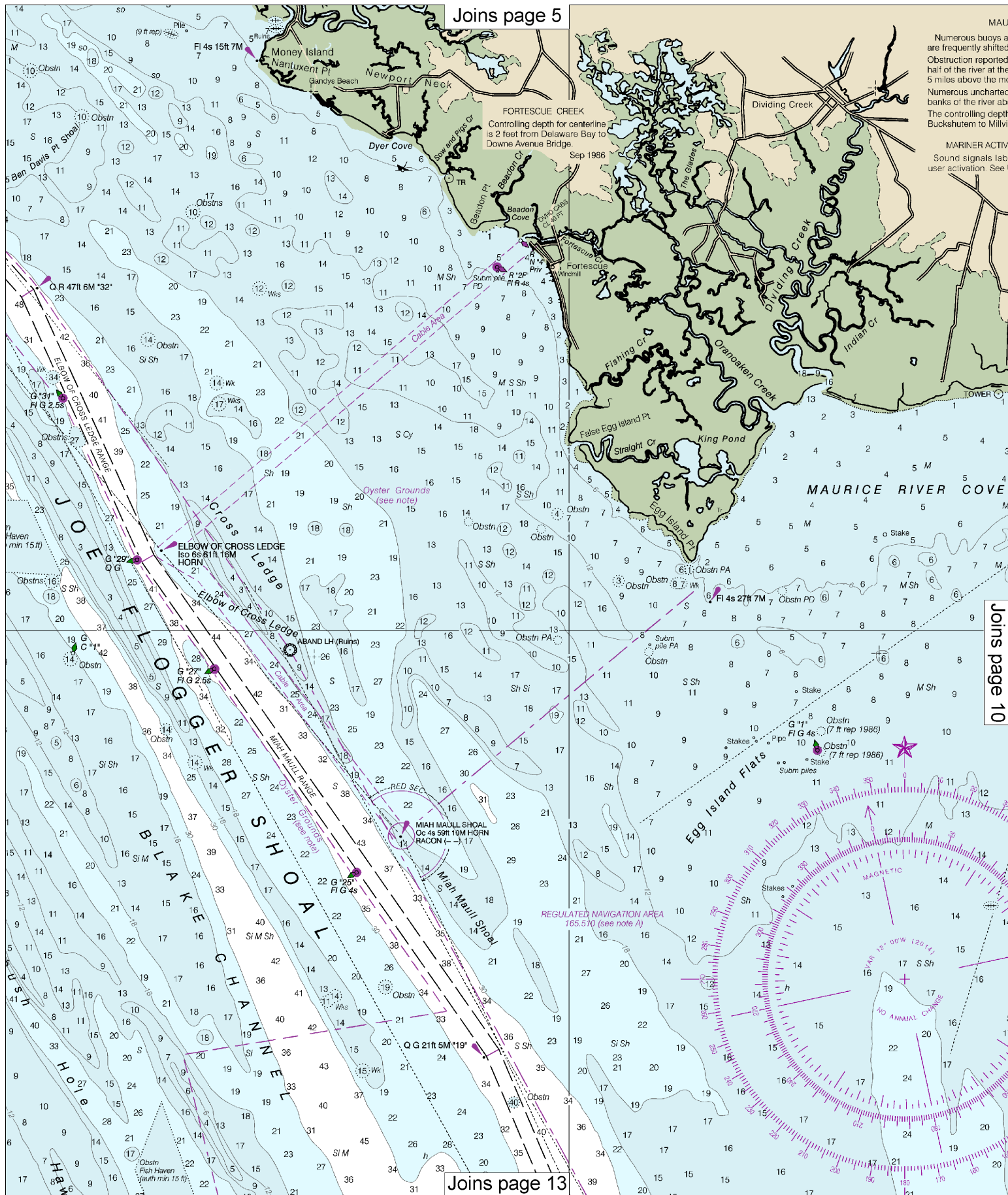
Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:80,000  
Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.







MAURICE RIVER  
Numerous buoys are frequently shifted. Obstruction reported half of the river at the 5 miles above the mouth. Numerous uncharted banks of the river above the mouth. The controlling depth is from Bucksport to Millville.

MARINER ACTIVE  
Sound signals last user activation. See note.





OYSTER GROUNDS  
CAUTION - Numerous stakes and obstructions exist within these areas.

**CAUTION**

Limitations on the use of radio signals as aids to marine navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publication 117.

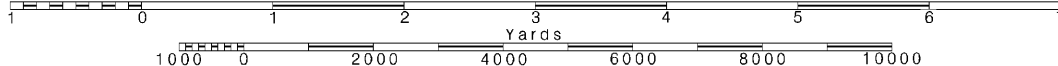
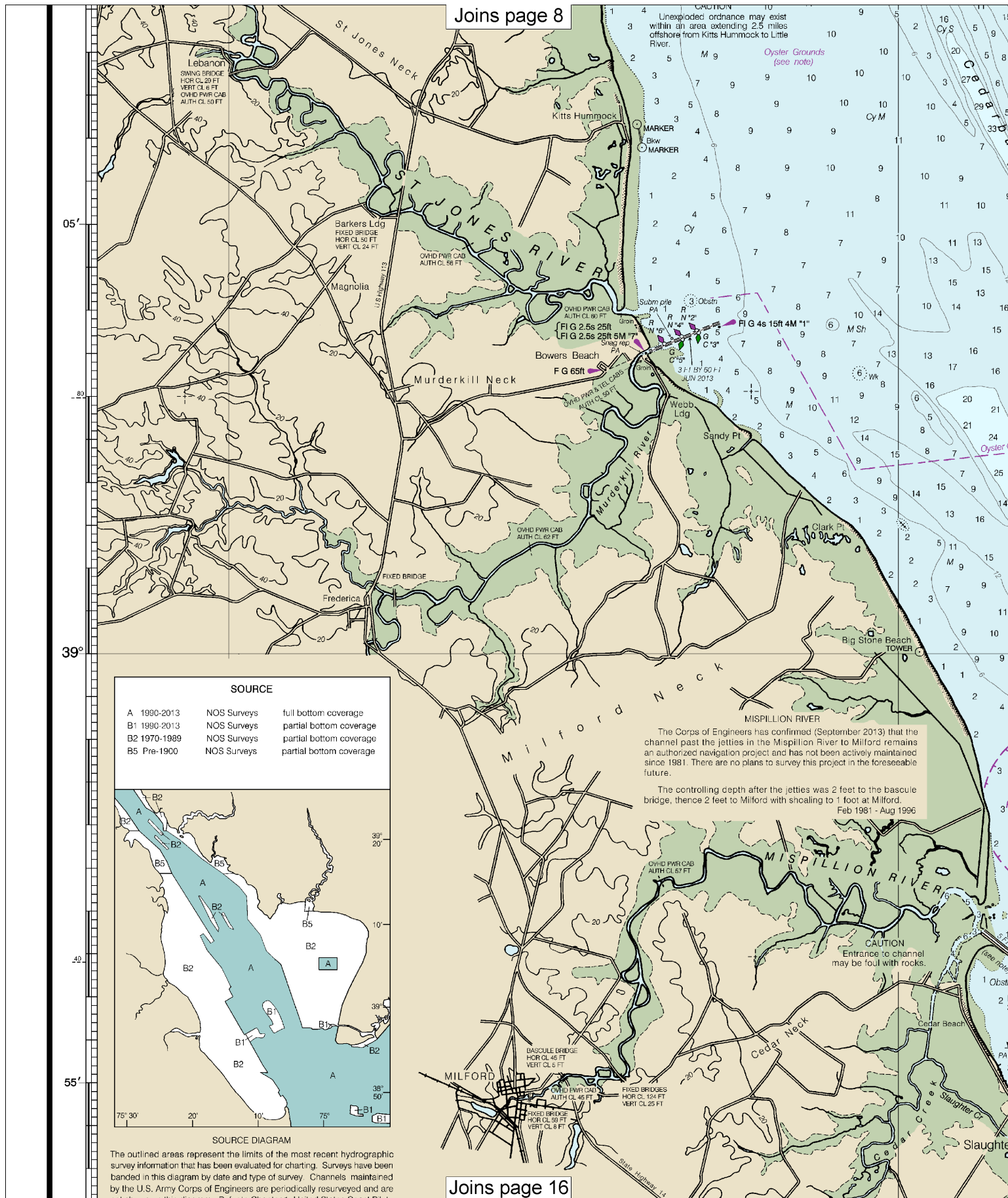
Radio direction-finder bearings to commercial broadcasting stations are subject to error and should be used with caution.

Station positions are shown thus:

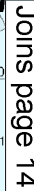
○ (Accurate location)	o (Approximate location)
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Atlantic City, NJ	KHB-38	162.400 MHz
Salisbury, MD	KEC-92	162.475 MHz
Lewes, DE	WXJ-94	162.550 MHz
Sudlersville, MD	WXK-97	162.500 MHz

Regulations for Ocean Dumping Sites are contained in 40 CFR, Parts 220-229. Additional information concerning the regulations and requirements for use of the sites may be obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). See





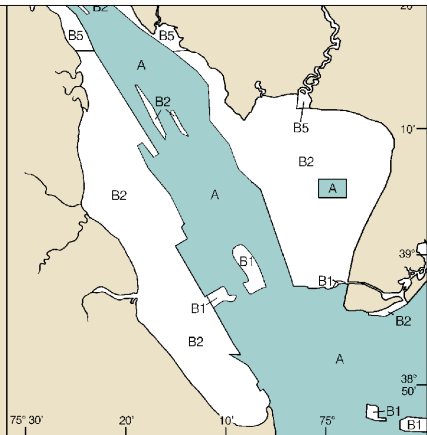








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SOURCE DIAGRAM

The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been banded in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically resurveyed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, *United States Coast Pilot*.



THE NATION'S CHARTMAKER SINCE 1807

UNITED STATES – EAST COAST

NEW JERSEY – DELAWARE

# DELAWARE BAY

Additional information can be obtained at [nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov).

Mercator Projection  
Scale 1:80,000 at Lat. 39°06'

North American Datum of 1983  
(World Geodetic System 1984)

SOUNDINGS IN FEET  
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

## HORIZONTAL DATUM

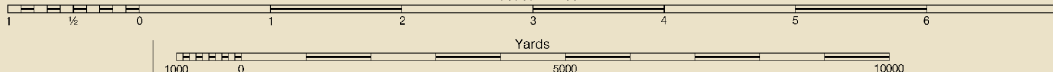
The horizontal reference datum of this chart is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which for charting purposes is considered equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84). Geographic positions referred to the North American Datum of 1927 must be corrected an average of 0.407" northward and 1.347" eastward to agree with this chart.

## HEIGHTS

Heights in feet above Mean High Water.

SCALE 1:80,000

Nautical Miles



**NOTE A**  
Navigation regulations are published in Chapter 2, U.S. Coast Pilot 3. Additions or revisions to Chapter 2 are published in the Notice to Mariners. Information concerning the regulations may be obtained at the Office of the Commander, 5th Coast Guard District in Portsmouth, Virginia or at the Office of the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
Refer to charted regulation section numbers.

**NOTE C**  
**TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME**  
One-way traffic lanes overprinted on this chart are RECOMMENDED for use by all vessels traveling between the points involved. They have been designed to aid in the prevention of collisions at the approaches to Delaware Bay, but are not intended in any way to supersede or alter the applicable Rules of the Road. Separation zones are intended to separate inbound and outbound traffic and to be free of ship traffic. Separation zones should not be used except for crossing purposes. When crossing traffic lanes and separation zones use extreme caution.

**AUTHORITIES**  
Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Service, Coast Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, and U.S. Coast Guard.

**NOTE B**  
**DANGER AREA**  
Area is open to unrestricted surface navigation but all vessels are cautioned neither to anchor, dredge, trawl, lay cables, bottom, nor conduct any other similar type of operation because of residual danger from mines on the bottom.

**NOTE D**  
**PRECAUTIONARY AREA**  
Traffic within the PRECAUTIONARY AREA may consist of cruising pilots and vessels making the transition between operating in Delaware Bay and one of the traffic lanes. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme care in navigating within this area.

## CAUTION

This chart has been corrected from the Notice to Mariners (NM) published weekly by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) issued periodically by each U.S. Coast Guard district to the dates shown in the lower left hand corner. Chart updates corrected from Notice to Mariners published after the dates shown in the lower left hand corner are available at [nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov).

NOAA encourages users to submit inquiries, discrepancies about this chart at <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/co>

12304

47th Ed., Oct. 2014. Last Correction: 11/14/2016. Cleared through:  
LNM: 4816 (11/29/2016), NM: 5016 (12/10/2016)

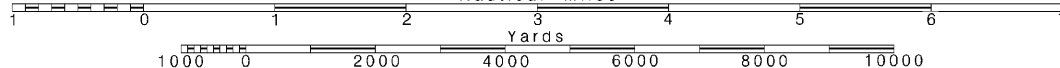
16

Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

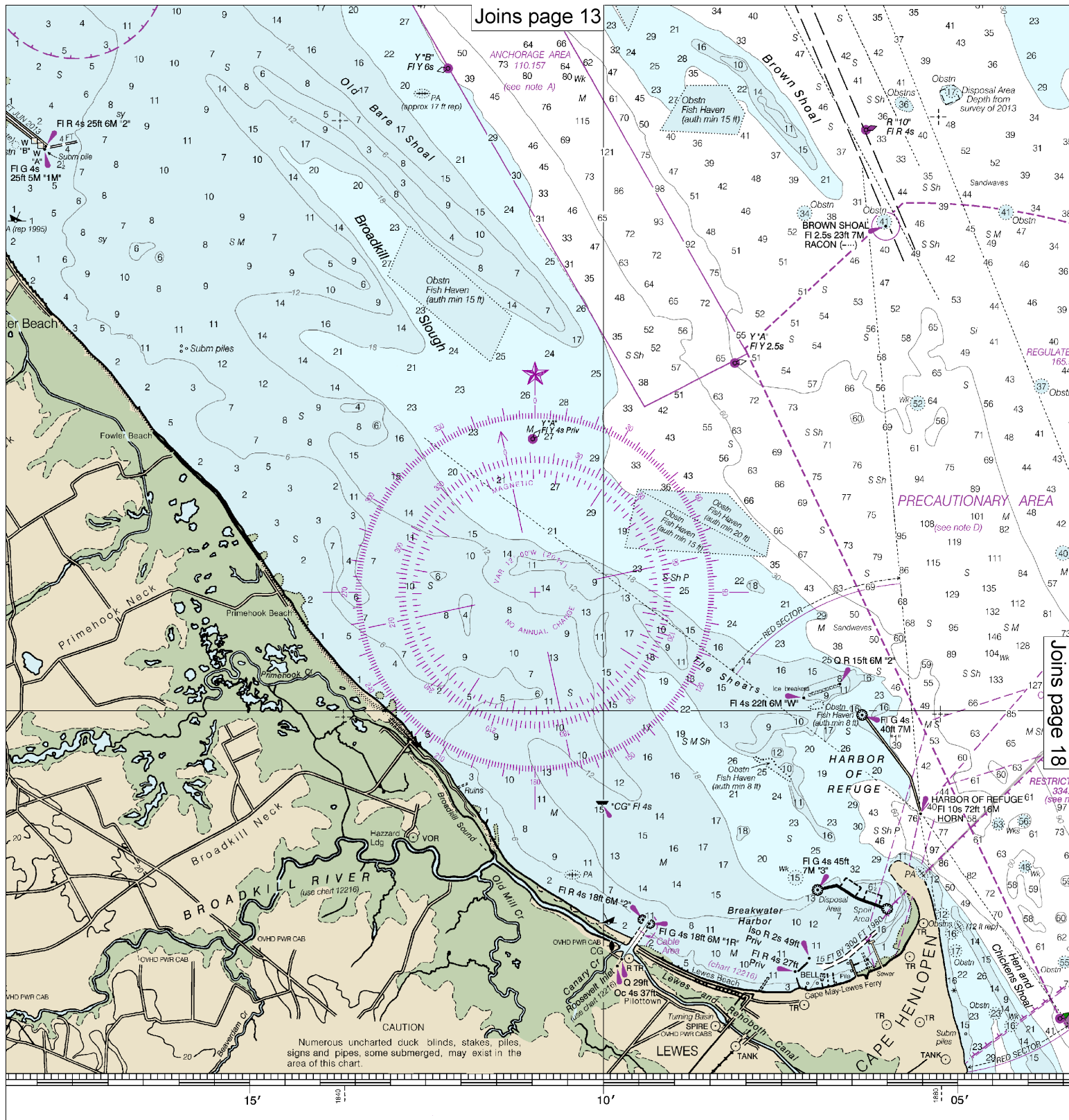
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SCALE 1:80,000  
Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.







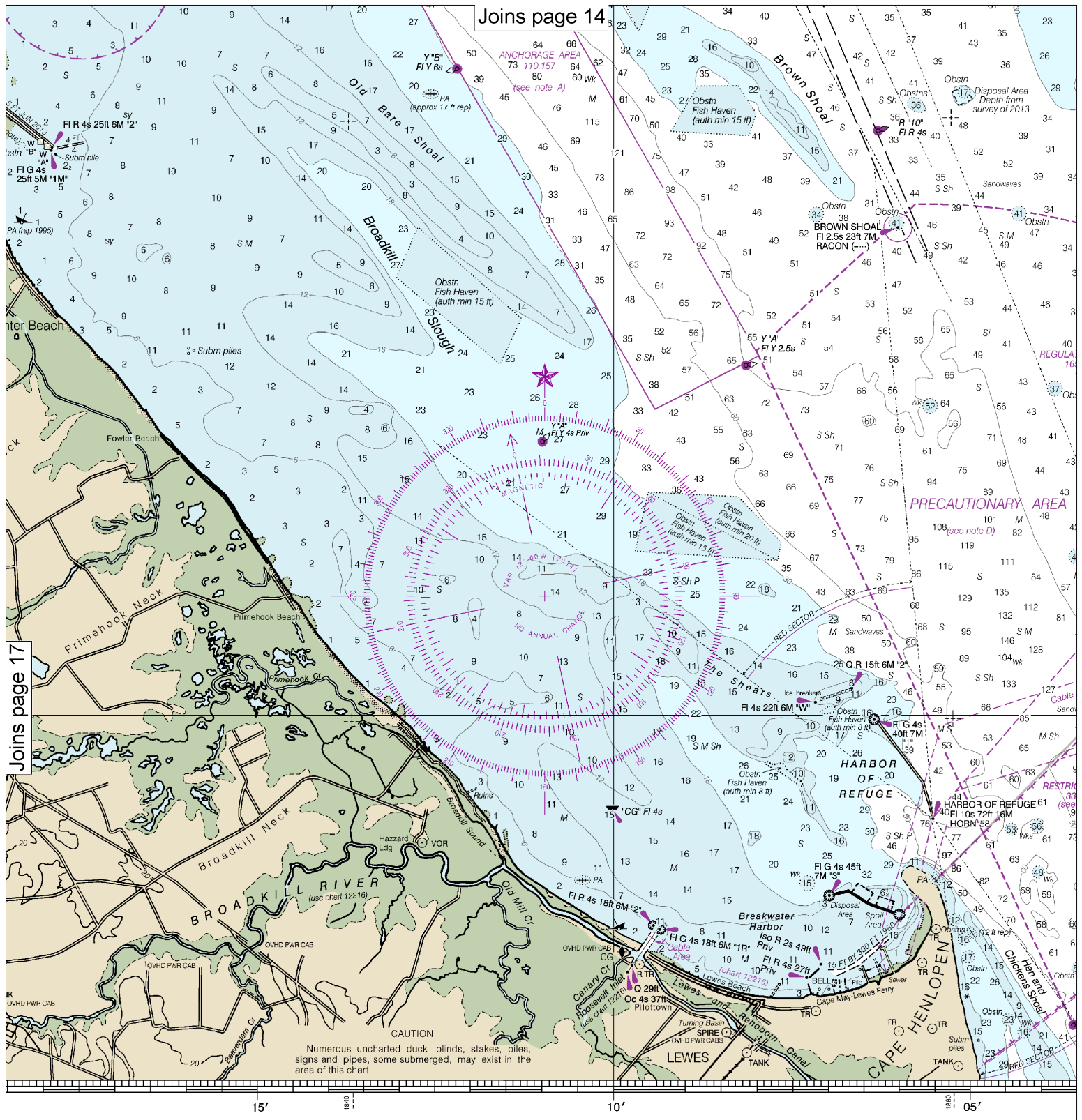
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For more information or comments  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
COAST SURVEY

SOUNDINGS IN FEET



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cies or comments  
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NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
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SOUNDINGS IN FEET

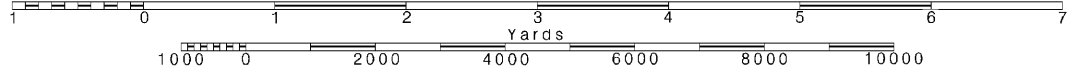
18

Note: Chart grid  
lines are aligned  
with true north.

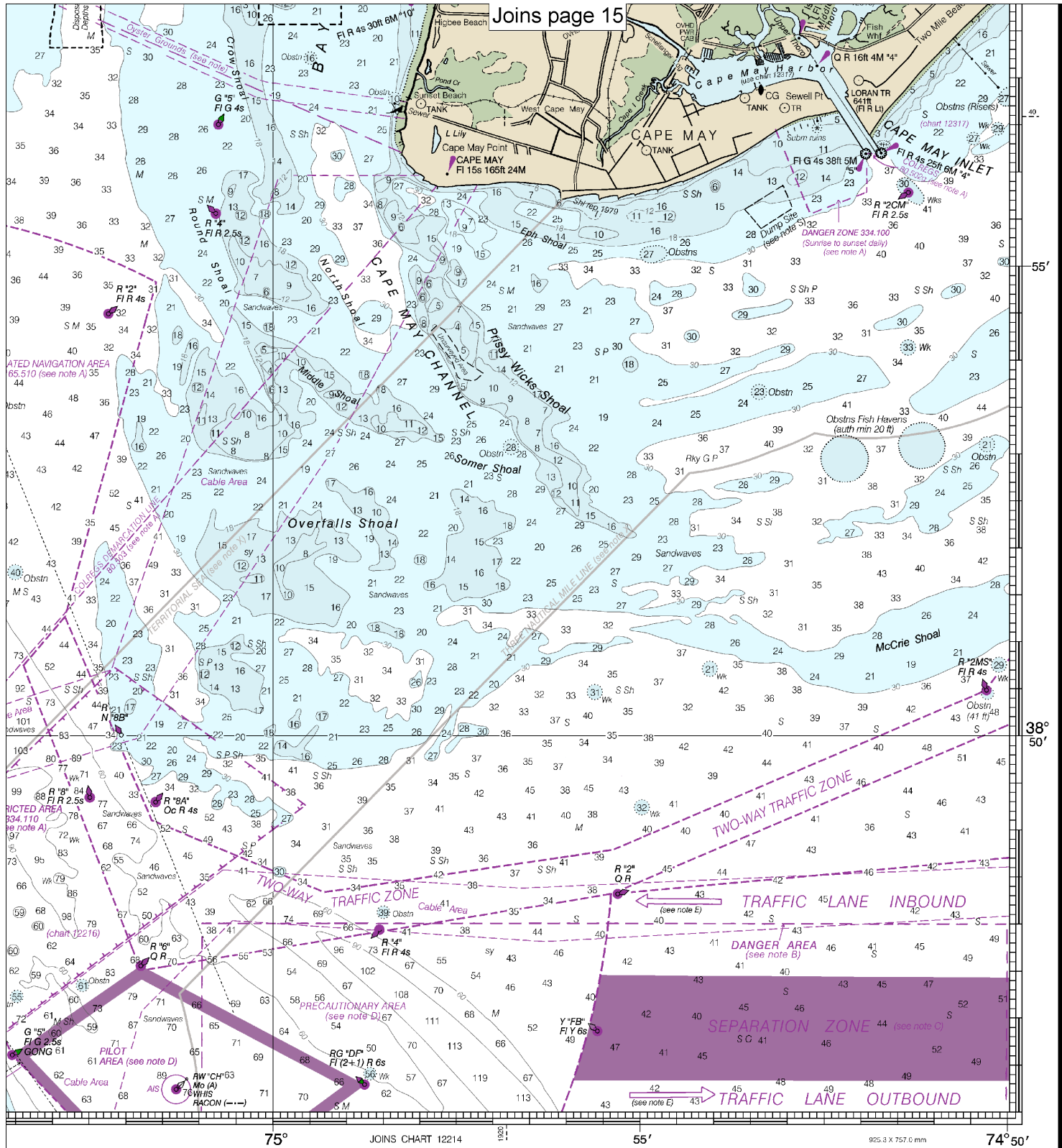
Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:80,000  
Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.







FATHOMS	1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
FEET	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102
METERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Delaware Bay  
SOUNDINGS IN FEET - SCALE 1:80,000

12304



## VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

**Channel 6** – Inter-ship safety communications.

**Channel 9** – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.

**Channel 13** – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.

**Channel 16** – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other

vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.

**Channel 22A** – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.

**Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A** – Recreational boat channels.

**Getting and Giving Help** — Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.



**NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)** is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>

## Distress Call Procedures

- Make sure radio is on.
- Select Channel 16.
- Press/Hold the transmit button.
- Clearly say: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
- Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
- Release transmit button.
- Wait for 10 seconds — If no response Repeat MAYDAY call.

**HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS!**

## Quick References

Nautical chart related products and information	—	<a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov</a>
Interactive chart catalog	—	<a href="http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml">http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml</a>
Report a chart discrepancy	—	<a href="http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx">http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx</a>
Chart and chart related inquiries and comments	—	<a href="http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs">http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs</a>
Chart updates (LNM and NM corrections)	—	<a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html</a>
Coast Pilot online	—	<a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm</a>
Tides and Currents	—	<a href="http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov">http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov</a>
Marine Forecasts	—	<a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm</a>
National Data Buoy Center	—	<a href="http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/">http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/</a>
NowCoast web portal for coastal conditions	—	<a href="http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/">http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/</a>
National Weather Service	—	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/">http://www.weather.gov/</a>
National Hurricane Center	—	<a href="http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/">http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/</a>
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center	—	<a href="http://ptwc.weather.gov/">http://ptwc.weather.gov/</a>
Contact Us	—	<a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm</a>



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This Booklet chart has been designed for duplex printing (printed on front and back of one sheet). If a duplex option is not available on your printer, you may print each sheet and arrange them back-to-back to allow for the proper layout when viewing.